

# Mary Jo Long

Attorney At Law

197 Main Street  
P.O. Box 465  
Afton, NY 13730

2119 '99 MAY 18 AM 11:37 Tel. 607-639-2783  
Fax 607-639-2768

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food & Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Continue Labeling of Irradiated Foods

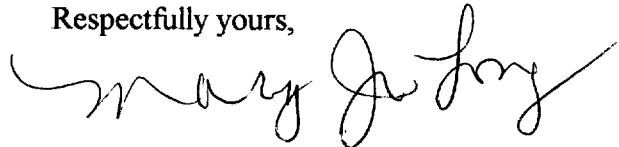
Dear FDA:

I am opposed to the elimination of labeling of irradiated foods. Our notion of democracy includes the ability to freely make choices and that requires informed decisions by consumers.

Allowing companies to hide their irradiation of food takes away the ability of consumers to make informed choices when buying food. This may be good for large food producers who can leave a product on the grocery shelf longer without spoilage, but I want to choose fresh foods that have not been irradiated. Irradiation diminishes the nutritional value of food and I want to choose foods with the most nutritional value. I also have concerns about the long-term health effects of irradiated food. I believe that corporations will not produce studies that show the negative health effects of their products just like the tobacco companies hid the negative effects of their products and produced studies by so-called experts to say their product was safe.

Just as the surgeon general requires disclosure of the harmful effects of smoking, the FDA should continue to require labeling of irradiated food. There are ample European studies about the negative health effects of irradiation which our government is ignoring. The least you can do is allow informed consumers to protect themselves since the FDA is not fully exercising its responsibility to protect us.

Respectfully yours,



Mary Jo Long

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20857+0001

